Demand of pulses by 2010

2759. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of pulses is estimated to touch 23 million tonnes by 2010 while their present production is 14 million tonnes, needing almost 50 per cent increase in a decade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in order to achieve the target, as per Indian Council of Agricultural Research, additional land area under different pulses, through cropping system manipulation and crop diversification, is needed; and

(c) if so, what are Government's long term plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) As per the Report of the Expert Committee on Pulses, the demand of pulses is estimated to be at 23.35 million tonnes in 2010 AD, according to Food Characteristic Demand System (FCDS). The Working Group on demand supply projections of agricultural commodities set-up by the Planning Commission for formulation of 9th Five Year Plan has estimated the production requirement of pulses for 2001-2002 at 17.20 million tonnes. The production during 1998-99 was 14.91 million tonnes and 13.35 million tonnes during 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) In order to achieve the targeted production of pulses, the Expert Committee has suggested to bring additional area under different pulses, through cropping system approach and crop diversification. The Government of India is taking several steps to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country. For this a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30 States/ U.Ts. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seed, seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organized for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers' field for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

In addition to above, an action plan to increase the production of pulses during 10th plan in relation to National Agricultural Policy has also been prepared and the States have been requested to draw their own action plan to increase the production of pulses in their State.